

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 051383

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-02 AID-05 SSO-00 SS-15 /033 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:EAID, SY, US

SUBJECT: STATUS OF AID LEGISLATION

1. FOLLOWING IS STATUS OF AID LEGISLATION RE SYRIA, IN ORDER GIVE YOU LATEST WORD ON EVE OF TREASURY SECRETARY SIMON'S VISIT.

2. FY 76 AID AUTHORIZATION PASSED BY SENATE WITH FIFTY MILLION DOLLARS FOR SYRIA. AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION HAS BEEN REPORTED OUT OF HOUSE COMMITTEE AND WILL BE ACTED ON BY FULL HOUSE WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3. HOUSE COMMITTEE BILL AUTHORIZES NINETY MILLION DOLS FOR ASSISTANCE TO SYRIA, SUBJECT OF COURSE TO FLOOR ACTION AND SUBSEQUENT HOUSE/SENATE CONFERENCE.

3. HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE BILL FOR FY 76 SECURITY ASSISTANCE WAS REPORTED OUT MARCH 1, AND FLOOR ACTION SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 4. THIS BILL CONTAINS EIGHTY MILLION DOLLARS FOR SYRIA. THERE HAS BEEN NO APPROPRIATION ACTION ON SENATE SIDE AS YET.

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PAGE 02 STATE 051383

4. AMENDMENT TO PROHIBIT ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES WHICH

REFUSE TO PERMIT THEIR CITIZENS TO EMIGRATE, DEFEATED

EARLIER IN HOUSE AUTHORIZATION COMMITTEE, MAY BE INTRODUCED ON HOUSE FLOOR BUT SEEMS UNLIKELY TO BE ADOPTED. THERE IS NO SIMILAR PROVISION IN SENATE AUTHORIZATION BILL. INGERSOLL

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